

the verdict of my country for trial, my great desire having been to retire, at the end of the present term, to a life of tranquillity; and it was my decided purpose when I entered into office. They force my continuance. If we can keep the vessel of State' as steadily in her course another four years, my earthly purposes will be accomplished, and I shall be free to enjoy, as you are doing, my family, my farm and my books. (To Elbridge Gerry, 1804. F. VIII., 297.)

RELIGION.—Compulsion in religion is distinguished peculiarly from compulsion in every other thing. I may grow rich by an art I am compelled to follow, I may recover health by medicines I am compelled to take against my own judgment, but I cannot be saved by a worship I disbelieve and abhor. (From Notes on Religion, 1776. F. II., 102.)

RELIGION.—I cannot give up my guidance to the magistrate, because he knows no more of the way to heaven than I do, and is less concerned to direct me right than I am to go right. \* \* \* The magistrate has no power but what the people gave. The people have not given him the care of souls because they could not; they could not because no man has the right to abandon the care of his salvation to another. No man has power to let another prescribe his faith. No man can conform his faith to the dictates of another. The life and essence of religion consists in the internal persuasion or belief of the mind. (From Notes on Religion, 1776. F. II., 101.)

RELIGION.—If I be marching on with my utmost vigor in that way which according to sacred geography leads to Jerusalem straight, why am I beaten and ill used by others because my hair is not of the right cut; because I have not been dressed right; because I eat flesh on the road; because I avoid certain by-ways which seem to lead into briars; because I avoid travelers less grave and keep company with others who are more sour and austere? Yet these are the frivolous things which keep Christians at war. (From Notes on Religion, 1776, F. II., 100.)

RELIGION.—Suppose the State should take into head that there should be an uniformity of countenance. Men would be